

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06
OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 FEA-01
/110 W

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R 201548Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6609
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EALR, ENRG, NG
SUBJECT: URANIUM ROAD MEETING CALLED

REF: NIAMEY 4226 (76)

1. A SPECIAL MEETING OF ALL SIGNATORIES OF THE URANIUM ROAD PROTOCOL (SEE REFTTEL) HAS BEEN CALLED IN NIAMEY APRIL 29. REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE AMERICAN COMPANIES-- ESSO, CONOCO AND PAN OCEAN-- HAVE ALSO BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND.
2. ACCORDING TO TELEGRAM SENT APRIL 18 BY MINISTER OF MINES MOUNKEILA TO ALL SIGNATORIES, PURPOSE OF THE SPECIAL SESSION IS TO DISCUSS ROAD PROTOCOL ARTICLES SEVENTEEN AND TWENTY. THE FIRST OF THESE IS IRON-TIGHT CLAUSE WHICH COMMITS SIGNATORIES TO LONG-TERM ROAD FINANCING EVEN IF THEY CEASE TO OPERATE IN NIGER. ESSO HAS BEEN MOST ADAMANT

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IN OPPOSITION TO SUCH OPEN-ENDED FINANCING. ARTICLE TWENTY ESTABLISHES JUNE 30, 1977, DEADLINE BY WHICH ALL COMPANIES ACTIVE IN URANIUM DEVELOPMENT MUST SIGN ROAD PROTOCOL.

3. COMMENT: GIVEN AGENDA OF MEETING -- ARTICLES SEVENTEEN AND TWENTY OF ROAD PROTOCOL-- IT SEEMS

LIKELY THAT PURPOSE OF MEETING IS TO AIR THE PROPOSALS
OF U.S. COMPANIES-- LEAD BY ESSO-- TO INSERT ESCAPE
CLAUSE INTO ROAD FINANCING TERMS. ESSO ARGUES THAT IF
COMPANIES WITHDRAWS FROM NIGER, ITS PARTICIPATION IN
BUILDING AND MAINTAINING 100 MILLION DOLLARS ROAD SHOULD
BE TAKEN UP BY OTHER URANIUM COMPANIES. MINISTER OF MINES
MOUNKEILA HAS TOLD ESSO THAT GON HAS NO OUTRIGHT OBJECTIONS
TO SUCH AN ESCAPE CLAUSE--REAL OPPOSITION RUMORED TO BE
COMING FROM FRENCH PARTNERS. POSTPONEMENT OF JUNE 30 SIGNING
DEADLINE WOULD GIVE ALL COMPANIES CONCERNED NEEDED BREATHING
SPACE TO EVALUATE CHANGES IN PROTOCOL. IF THIS THE CASE, WE
CONSIDER APRIL 28 MEETING POSITIVE STEP FORWARD IN FUTURE OF
U.S. URANIUM INVESTMENT IN NIGER. END COMMENT. JAMES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: URANIUM, AGREEMENTS, HIGHWAYS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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